

To the members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 5653 "AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXCISE TAX ON AMMUNITION".

This is nothing more than a veiled attempt to further encumber law abiding citizens in this state who happen to own firearms. An excise tax is regressive and will disproportionately affect those with lower incomes. Gun owners already pay an 11% tax on ammunition purchases via the Pittman-Robertson act tax on top of Connecticut sales tax.

As for reducing gun violence, this will have little if any effect. One is unable to purchase ammunition in Connecticut unless they have a permit to carry firearms, an ammunition permit or long gun permit, and have undergone a thorough back ground check by their local police as well as an FBI fingerprint check. These are law abiding citizens who have been run through the national criminal background check system. They are not the source of violent crime that involves the use of firearms. The state should be targeting those who are breaking current firearm laws.

Rather than come up with new taxes, or laws that only serve to encumber legal gun owners, enforce our current laws and prosecute every person who uses a gun in commission of a crime, especially violent crimes. This will reduce gun related violent crime.

Passing laws that restrict the rights of gun owners makes as much sense as restricting the ability of all people to drive a car, in order to reduce drunk driving.

Let's apply common sense to gun laws. Prosecute criminals. Leave law abiding firearms owners alone. Connecticut has already unfairly encumbered them with their existing gun laws.

This proposed tax would also severely limit the amount of practice gun owners could perform to improve their skill in firearms handling. Practice makes for a safer handler. The tax would unfairly punish gun owners who are financially limited; the same people who are most often victims of violent crime. They should not be penalized.

Respectfully,
Robert O'Connell
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